Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream, the method comprising the steps of: receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream; storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer; watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer; performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer;

wherein said information signal bit-stream comprises a series of packets, the predetermined interval corresponding to the first buffer receiving an integral number of said packets.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said watermarking step comprises embedding a watermark in the second copy of the received portion by transcoding.

3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information signal comprises at least one of a transport stream and a program stream.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (currently amended) ~~A method as claimed in claim 1,~~ A method of embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream, the method comprising the steps of: receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream; storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer; watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer; performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer;

wherein said predetermined interval is when a predetermined start code of the bit-stream is detected at a predetermined position within the first buffer.

6. (currently amended) ~~A method as claimed in claim 1,~~ A method of embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream, the method comprising the steps of: receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream; storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer; watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer; performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer; wherein said predetermined interval corresponds to at least one of the buffers being filled by a respective stored signal.

7. (currently amended) A computer program arranged to perform a ~~the~~ method ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising the steps of: receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream; storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer; watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer; performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer; wherein said information signal bit-stream comprises a series of packets, the predetermined interval corresponding to the first buffer receiving an integral number of said packets.

8. (currently amended) A ~~record carrier~~ machine readable medium comprising a computer program ~~as claimed in claim 7~~ configured to instruct a machine to perform the steps of receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream; storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer; watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer; performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer;

wherein said information signal bit-stream comprises a series of packets, the predetermined interval corresponding to the first buffer receiving an integral number of said packets.

9. (currently amended) A method, the method including of making available for downloading a computer program as claimed in claim 7 configured to instruct a machine to perform the steps of receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream; storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer; watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer; performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer; wherein said information signal bit-stream comprises a series of packets, the predetermined interval corresponding to the first buffer receiving an integral number of said packets.

10. (currently amended) A watermarked information signal formed by performing the steps of according to the method as claimed in claim 1 receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream; storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer; watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer; performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer; wherein said information signal bit-stream comprises a series of packets, the predetermined interval corresponding to the first buffer receiving an integral number of said packets.

11. (cancelled)

12. (original) An apparatus for embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream, the apparatus comprising: a receiver for receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream; a first buffer for storing a first copy of the received portion; a watermarker for watermarking a second copy of the received portion; a second buffer for storing the resulting watermarked signal; a controller arranged to perform a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by the watermarking process; and a multiplexer arranged to output the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check

determines the bit-rate has changed, and otherwise to output the watermarked signal from the second buffer.